



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Plainfield, NJ

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Plainfield has been selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. By the time Plainfield was incorporated as a city in the late 1800s, it was home to heavy industry and rail transportation. Manufacturing operations, machine shops, and fuel and coal storage facilities were located in the three target areas. Today these brownfields sites are vacant and underutilized properties. The per capita income in Plainfield is 71 percent of the county per capita income, and unemployment, which rose nearly 50 percent from 2001 to 2002, is significantly higher than the county and state rates. More than 80 percent of city residents are minorities. The median income is lower and the concentration of minority populations is



Assessment Grants



**\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the City of Plainfield for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities, perform approximately eight preliminary site assessments and a select number of site investigations at sites in three target areas, the Western Industrial Corridor, the Eastern Industrial Corridor, and the Central District. These areas have a total of 71 acres of abandoned manufacturing plants and fuel oil and coal storage facilities. Petroleum funds will be used to conduct the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team
212-637-4314

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/
brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/)

Grant Recipient: City of Plainfield, NJ
908-753-3665

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

higher in the census tracts that make up two of the targeted redevelopment areas. The target areas were selected in part because of the excellent existing infrastructure. Along with the legacy of brownfields, there is a positive legacy of existing rail lines, walkable street grids, mixed-use communities,

and excellent road access. Assessment of the brownfields sites will help reduce potential exposure to contaminants and pave the way for redevelopment, which is expected to encourage investment in the target neighborhoods. The jobs and revenues anticipated to accompany the redevelopment will revitalize the communities and bring economic benefit to the city.